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FORM PTO-1390 (REV 11-98) | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER: 19941A-000300US

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5): 09/582404

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
PCT/JP98/05915	December 28, 1998	December 26, 1997

TITLE OF INVENTION
SUSTAINED-RELEASE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US NOBORU YAMASHITA; AKIRA TAKAGI; MASATAKA KATSUMA; KATSUMI SAITO; YUUKI TAKAISHI; TATSUO YASUDA; YUTAKA TAKAHASHI; MITSUO MITOMI; MICHIO HARA

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. [x] This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. [ ] This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C 371.
3. [x] This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. [x] A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. [x] A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
   a. [ ] is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
   b. [x] has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
   c. [ ] is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. [xx] A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. [xx] Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
   a. [ ] are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
   b. [ ] have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
   c. [ ] have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
   d. [x] have not been made and will not be made.
8. [ ] A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. [xx] An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. [ ] A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. [xx] An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. [xx] An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. [xx] A FIRST preliminary amendment.
    [ ] A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. [ ] A substitute specification.
15. [ ] A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. [xx] Other items or information:
    International Search Report, 3 references

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
09/582404	PCT/JP98/05915	19941A-000300US

17. [x] The following fees are submitted:	CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):		
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO $970.00		
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO $840.00		
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO $760.00		
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) $670.00		
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) $96.00		
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =	$840	
Surcharge of $130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than [ ] 20 [ ] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).	$	

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	16 - 20 =		X $18.00	$	
Independent claims	1 - 3 =		X $78.00	$	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ $260.00	$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				$840	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also by filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				$	
SUBTOTAL =				$	
Processing fee of $130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than [ ] 20 [ ] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). +				$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				$840	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). $40.00 per property +				$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				$840	
				Amount to be: refunded	$
				charged	$

a. [ ] A check in the amount of $_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. [x] Please charge my Deposit Account No. 20-1430 in the amount of $ 840 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. [x] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1430. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
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SIGNATURE:

Kathleen L. Choi
NAME

43,433
REGISTRATION NUMBER

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 19941A-000300US
Client Reference No.: WA-0436 US(PCT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. National Phase of:
PCT/JP98/05915 of:

NOBORU YAMASHITA, et al.

Application No.: Not yet assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: SUSTAINED-RELEASE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

San Francisco, CA 94111
June 23, 2000

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3, line 2, please delete "or 2".

Claim 4, line 2, delete "any one of claims 1 through 3" and substitute therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 5, line 2, delete "any one of claims 1 through 4" and substitute therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 6, line 2, delete "any one of claims 1 through 5" and substitute therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 2, delete "any one of claims 1 through 6" and substitute therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 11, line 2, delete "any one of claims 1 through 10" and substitute therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 12, line 2, delete "any one of claims 1 through 11" and substitute therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 13, line 2, delete "any one of claims 1 through 6" and substitute therefor --claim 1--.

Claim 16, line 2, delete "any one of claims 13 through 15" and substitute therefor --claim 13--.

REMARKS

Amendment is made to eliminate all multiple dependencies from the claims, thereby avoiding the need to pay the multiple dependent surcharge.

Respectfully submitted,

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SPECIFICATION

SUSTAINED-RELEASE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a sustained-release pharmaceutical composition for an ionic prostanoic acid derivative. More particularly, the invention relates to a sustained-release pharmaceutical composition comprising an ionic prostanoic acid derivative and an ionic compound which has an opposite charge to that of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative and enhances the hydrophobic property of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative.

Related Art

Oral administration has been widely applied to delivery of pharmaceutically active substances. While there is a need for fast-acting drugs, both fast and continuously acting drugs are simultaneously necessary sometimes. In this case, parenteral administration is generally used in combination with oral administration. For parenteral preparations, there are known intravenous, subcutaneous or intramuscular injection; implants and transmucosal preparations through oral cavity, nasal cavity, lung, vagina, rectum, skin, etc. Of these routes, injection is a general choice for administration.

However, sustained release of some medicaments may cause difficulty in parenteral preparations, depending upon the property of a

pharmaceutically active substance. For example, such difficulty is noted with pharmaceutically active substances having a short half life in blood, a high water solubility or a low molecular weight. When it is desired to maintain the pharmacological effects of those medicaments over a long period of time, it is the actual practice to administer such a medicament by instillation through the vein or frequently inject the medicament subcutaneously or intramuscularly. A burden of such a treatment is not negligible to patients either physically or mentally. To solve the problem, it has been investigated to create a pharmaceutically active substance having a prolonged half life in blood or to produce a hybrid between a pharmaceutically active substance and a high molecular weight substance such as polyethylene glycol by irreversible bonding of the two substances, thereby to extend the half life of the pharmaceutically active substance itself in blood. Various other techniques for controlling the solubility or dissolution of a pharmaceutically active substance out of a carrier have been studied, which involve insolubilizing or sparingly solubilizing a pharmaceutically active substance in water to delay its dissolution, or microencapsulation of a pharmaceutically active substance using a biodegradable high molecular weight material.

For example, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 1-163199 discloses that an organic acid with a high molecular weight of about 5,000 or more, e.g., sodium alginate, is added to a cytokine like

interleukin 2 so as to reach the isotonic osmotic pressure or more and the mixture is then shaken to form the water-insoluble matter, whereby the insoluble mater is used in a sustained-release composition for injection.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 9-208485 discloses a sustained-release preparation comprising a sparingly water-soluble composition formed from a peptide-proteinaceous medicament and EDTA.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Nos. 8-3055 and 8-217691 disclose sustained-release preparations comprising microcapsules obtained by mixing a water-soluble pharmaceutically active substance and a water-soluble polyvalent metal salt, and dispersing the resulting water-insoluble mixture of in a biodegradable high molecular weight material such as polylactic acid-glycolic acid copolymer.

On the other hand, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 62-129226 discloses that hyaluronic acid or its sodium salt, or Hylan enables a medicament dissolved or dispersed in the solution to achieve continuous release from the solution mainly based on the viscosity of the solution. This publication also discloses that in a cationic group-containing medicament, exchange of ions could occur between this carboxyl group-containing macromolecule of hyaluronic acid and the medicament, where the exchange causes slower diffusion of the medicament out of the system. As a technique utilizing the viscosity of

hyaluronic acid, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 1-287041 discloses a sustained-release preparation suitable for subcutaneous or intramuscular administration, comprising a pharmaceutically active substance and hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof; Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2-213 also discloses a sustained-release preparation comprising a physiologically active peptide and hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof.

However, such a sustained-release preparation utilizing the viscosity of hyaluronic acid provides a fast diffusion of a pharmaceutically active substance from the viscous product, in which the active substance is incorporated. Even taking into account the ionic interaction ability between hyaluronic acid and a cationic medicament coupled to the viscosity of hyaluronic acid, it is suspected that retardation in dissolution is not enough. Yet, any sustained-release parenteral preparation that is satisfactory from a clinical standpoint has been unknown for not only cationic but also ionic pharmaceutically active substances. Particularly in the case of a highly water-soluble ionic pharmaceutically active substance, sustained release could not be attained to a satisfactory extent by the prior art technique of retarding the diffusion using the viscosity of a high molecular weight substance, especially because of its high water solubility.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 53-18723 discloses a composition for rectal administration obtained by intimately mixing

insulin with a quaternary ammonium salt cationic surfactant. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 59-89619 discloses a liquid pharmaceutical composition for nasal administration, comprising calcitonin and benzalkonium chloride in a liquid diluent or carrier suitable for application to nasal mucous membrane. However, the techniques described in these gazette publications all aim at improving absorption of a medicament by rectal administration or nasal administration but none of the publications mentions or even suggests sustained release of a medicament involving the imparted hydrophobic property of an ionic complex.

Disclosure of the Invention

An object of the present invention is to provide a sustained-release preparation of an ionic prostanoic acid derivative, irrespective of water solubility of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative, to such an extent that is satisfactory for clinical use.

The present inventors attempted to provide a sustained-release preparation for an ionic prostanoic acid derivative, for which sustained release is required through parenteral route, first by adding an equimolar amount of a cationic compound to the anionic prostanoic acid derivative and forming a sparingly water-soluble ionic complex through ionic interaction between the anionic derivative and the cationic compound, with an expectation to achieve a sustained release of the

anionic prostanoic acid derivative. However, subcutaneous administration of the ionic complex formed to rats revealed that no satisfactory sustained-release was obtained. It was thus found that the retarded dissolution of ionic prostanoic acid derivatives is insufficient for the purpose of sustained release of ionic pharmaceutically active substances by parenteral route.

In order to further increase the hydrophobicity of the pharmaceutically active substance accompanied by the formation of the ionic complex, the present inventors have brought attention to an octanol/water partition coefficient as an index for the hydrophobicity. As a result, it has been found that depending upon kind of the cationic compound, there is a difference in the octanol/water partition coefficient of the anionic prostanoic acid derivative associated with the ionic complex formation and that a better sustained release effect is obtained with a larger partition coefficient. It has also been found that the sustained release effect can be more enhanced by increasing the addition amount of the cationic compound and increasing the partition coefficient for the anionic pharmaceutically active substance. Furthermore, it has been discovered that these ionic complexes unexpectedly exhibit an excellent sustained release effect, even when a dissolved state of the pharmaceutically active substance in water is maintained, that is, the state of its aqueous solution is maintained if the pharmaceutically active substance is water-soluble.

The present inventors have found that a sustained release of the ionic pharmaceutically active substance attained by increasing the hydrophobicity of an ionic pharmaceutically active substance was hitherto unknown and that this sustained release technique can be advantageously applied not only to parenteral preparations but to oral preparations. Based on the finding, the present invention has been found.

(1) That is, the present invention relates to a sustained-release pharmaceutical composition comprising an ionic prostanoic acid derivative and an ionic compound having an opposite charge to that of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative and increasing hydrophobicity of the derivative.

(2) The present invention also relates to a sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to (1), wherein the ionic compound having an opposite charge to that of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative and increasing the hydrophobic property of the derivative contains a hydrophobic group in the molecule thereof.

(3) The present invention also relates to a sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to (1) or (2), wherein the ionic compound increases an oil/water partition coefficient of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative.

(4) The present invention further relates to a sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to any one of (1) to (3), wherein

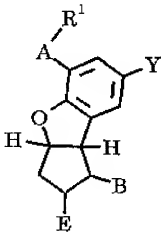
the ionic compound is incorporated at least in an equimolar amount based on the ionic prostanoic acid derivative in terms of a charge ratio.

The sustained-release pharmaceutical composition of the present invention is characterized in that by adding a particular counter ion to the ionic prostanoic acid derivative to increase the oil/water partition coefficient of the ionic pharmaceutically active substance, a hydrophobic property is imparted to give the sustained-release pharmaceutical composition of the invention suitable for, e.g., injection. The sustained release according to the present invention is effected by means of a novel method quite different from conventional techniques adopted to control the release of ionic pharmaceutically active substances, to insolubilize a pharmaceutically active substance itself, to retard the dissolution of the active substance by microencapsulation, etc.. Moreover, the present invention is characterized in that the sustained release can be achieved by the composition of the invention to a fully satisfactory extent that was obtained only insufficiently by these known means.

The sustained-release pharmaceutical composition of the present invention will be described below in more detail.

In general, ionic prostanoic acid derivatives refer to ionic prostaglandins A_2, B_2, C_2, D_2, E_2, $F_{2\alpha}$, G_2, H_2, I_2 and J_2 and these derivatives can be used in the present invention without any particular restriction, so long as they are provided conventionally for a pharmacological treatment and their sustained release is desired for oral

or parenteral administration. Preferred examples of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative are prostaglandin I_2 derivatives. More preferably, the ionic prostanoic acid derivative is represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R^1 represents $COOR^2$ (wherein R^2 represents:

1) hydrogen or a pharmacologically acceptable cation,

2) -Z-Ar^1, wherein Z is a valence bond or a straight or branched alkylene shown by C_tH_{2t} wherein t is an integer of 1 to 6, and Ar^1 is 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl or 4-pyridyl;

3) -$C_tH_{2t}COOR^3$, wherein C_tH_{2t} has the same significance as defined above, and R^3 is hydrogen or a pharmacologically acceptable cation;

or,

4) -$C_tH_{2t}N(R^4)_2$, wherein C_tH_{2t} has the same significance as defined above, and R^4 is hydrogen, a straight alkyl having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a branched alkyl having 3 to 14 carbon atoms);

A represents:

1) $-(CH_2)_m-$, wherein m is an integer of 1 to 3;

2) $-CH=CH-CH_2-$;

3) $-CH_2-CH=CH-$;

4) $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$;

5) $-CH=CH-$;

6) $-O-CH_2-$; or,

7) $-C\equiv C-$;

Y represents hydrogen, an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, formyl, methoxy or nitro;

B represents $-X-C(R^5)(R^6)OR^7$ (wherein R^5 represents hydrogen or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; R^7 represents hydrogen, an acyl having 1 to 14 carbon atoms, an aroyl having 6 to 15 carbon atoms, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, 1-ethoxyethyl or t-butyl; X represents:

1) $-CH_2-CH_2-$;

2) $-CH=CH-$; or

3) $-C\equiv C-$;

R^6 represents:

1) a straight alkyl having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a branched alkyl having 3 to 14 carbon atoms;

2) $-Z-Ar^2$, wherein Z has the same significance as defined above and Ar^2 is phenyl, α-naphthyl, β-naphthyl or a phenyl substituted

with at least one of chlorine, bromine, fluorine, iodine, trifluoromethyl, an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, nitro, cyano, methoxy, phenyl or phenoxy;

3) $-C_tH_{2t}OR^8$, wherein C_tH_{2t} has the same significance as defined above, and R^8 is a straight alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a branched alkyl having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, phenyl, a phenyl substituted with at least one of chlorine, bromine, fluorine, iodine, trifluoromethyl, an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, nitro, cyano, methoxy, phenyl or phenoxy, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or a cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl substituted with 1 to 4 straight alkyl group(s) having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

4) $-Z-R^9$, wherein Z has the same significance as defined above, and R^9 is hydrogen, a cycloalkyl having 3 to 12 carbon atoms or a substituted cycloalkyl having 3 to 12 carbon atom which is substituted with 1 to 3 alkyl groups having 1 to 5 carbon atoms;

5) $-C_tH_{2t}-CH=C(R^{10})R^{11}$, wherein C_tH_{2t} has the same significance as defined above, and R^{10} and R^{11} represent hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl; or

6) $-C_uH_{2u}-C\equiv C-R^{12}$, wherein u is an integer of 1 to 7, C_uH_{2u} is a straight or branched alkylene and R^{12} is a straight alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms);

E represents hydrogen or $-OR^{13}$, wherein R^{13} is hydrogen, an acyl having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an aroyl having 7 to 18 carbon atoms, a

straight alkyl having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a branched alkyl having 3 to 14 carbon atoms;

or salts thereof.

In some of the compounds represented by general formula (I) described above, optical isomers may be present based on an asymmetric carbon in the molecule. The present invention covers all of d-, l- and dl-isomers.

As more preferred ionic prostaglandin I_2 derivatives, the compounds which are excellent in stability are chosen. Examples of such prostaglandin I_2 derivatives are Iloprost, Clinprost, Ataprost, Ciprostene, Naxaprostene, Taprostene, Cicaprost, Pimilprost, CH-169, SM-10902, CS570, etc. and salts or esters thereof. Preferred examples also include the compounds which can be produced by the process described in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 58-124778, or salts thereof, more preferably, (±)-(1R*,2R*,3aS*,8bS*)-2,3,3a,8b-tetrahydro-2-hydroxy-1-[(E)-(3S*)-3-hydroxy-4-methyl-1-octen-6-ynyl]-1H-cyclopenta[b]benzofuran-5-butanoic acid (generic name "beraprost") or salts thereof (the sodium salt of beraprost is commercially available as an anti-platelet agent or a blood flow improving agent under the generic name "beraprost sodium", which is sometimes abbreviated as "BPS").

The amount of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative used in the present invention is not particularly limited as far as it is within such an amount that exhibits a pharmacologically therapeutic effect. In the

case of, e.g., BPS, the amount is in the range of 0.1 to 1,000 μg. According to the present invention, even if a substance is sparingly soluble in water, the ionic prostanoic acid derivative can enjoy the benefits of sustained release by imparting hydrophobicity, as in readily water-soluble substances.

The ionic compound having an opposite charge to that of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative and increasing its hydrophobicity used in the present invention is not particularly restricted but preferably a substance containing a highly hydrophobic group(s). The presence of highly hydrophobic group(s) in the molecule of the ionic compound can increase the hydrophobic property of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative. The degree of hydrophobicity can be determined by calculating as an index the oil/water partition coefficient of the pharmaceutically active substance (that is, a ratio of, e.g., the concentration of the pharmaceutically active substance in an oil phase such as octanol to the concentration of the pharmaceutically active substance in water). Preferably, when the ionic compound is added to the ionic prostanoic acid derivative in such an amount that the compound has a charge equivalent to that of the prostanoic acid derivative, the oil/water partition coefficient increases as compared to no addition of the compound. More preferably, when the compound having a counter ion is added to the ionic prostanoic acid derivative in an excess amount to give more charges by, e.g., 20 times than equivalent one, the partition

coefficient increases much more than the addition in an equivalent charge. The term "ionic" in the ionic compound of the present invention is used to mean that the compound contains one or more charged groups in the molecule thereof. The charged group functions as a hydrophilic group in the molecule. The ionic compound may additionally contain other hydrophilic groups not associated with charge. Preferably, the ionic state contains one charged group in the molecule thereof. The cationic compound to be incorporated preferably contains an ammonium, pyridinium, phosphonium or sulfonium group in the molecule thereof, or may be in the form of their salts. More preferably, the cationic compound contains the functional group above mentioned and the functional group carries a hydrophobic group having at least 6 carbon atoms. Examples of such cationic compounds are trialkylbenzyl ammonium salts such as benzyltriethylammonium chloride, benzyltributylammonium chloride, etc.; alkyldimethylbenzylammonium salts such as octyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride, lauryldimethylbenzylammonium chloride, myristyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride, stearyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride, benzalkonium chloride which is the mixture of lauryldimethylbenzylammonium chloride and myristyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride; benzethonium chloride or derivatives thereof; alkyltrimethyl salts such as lauryltrimethylammonium chloride, cetyltrimethylammonium chloride,

lauryltrimethylammonium chloride, behenyltrimethylammonium chloride, etc.; alkyl pyridinium salts such as laurylpyridinium chloride, cetylpyridinium chloride, etc.; alkylamine salts such as oleylamine acetate, stearylamine acetate, etc.; alkylphosphonium salts such as tetrabutylphosphonium chloride, tricetyl(4-vinylbenzyl)phosphonium chloride, etc. or derivatives thereof. Examples of the cationic compounds include surface-active medicaments such as chlorpromazine hydrochloride, phenothiazine, perphenazine, perphenazine maleate, levomepromazine, lidocaine hydrochloride, meprylcaine hydrochloride, acetylcholine chloride, methylbenactyzium bromide, distigmine bromide, torazoline hydrochloride, imipramine hydrochloride, desipramine hydrochloride, amitriptyline hydrochloride, procaine hydrochloride, lidocaine hydrochloride, dibucaine hydrochloride, meprylcaine, diphenhydramine hydrochloride, chlorpheniramine maleate, iproheptine, etc. These cationic compounds may be in the form of pharmaceutically acceptable salts or free bases. Preferably, the salts are alkyldimethylbenzylammonium salts, alkyldimethylbenzylammonium salts, alkylpyridinium salts, alkylamine slats and alkylphosphonium salts, more preferably, alkyldimethylbenzylammonium salts, most preferably benzalkonium chlorides. These compounds may be used in combination of two or more.

In case that the pharmaceutically active substance is cationic, the anionic compound added as the ionic compound in the present

invention contains preferably a carboxyl, sulfate, sulfonate or phosphate group in the molecule thereof. More preferably, the anionic compound contains the functional group(s) described above which carries a hydrophobic group of at least 6 carbon atoms. Examples of such anionic compounds include higher fatty acids such as caproic acid, caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, oleic acid, etc. or physiologically acceptable salts thereof (e.g., sodium or potassium); alkyl sulfates such as sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium myristyl sulfate, etc.; alkyl ether sulfates such as POE (2) lauryl ether sodium sulfate, etc.; alkylallyl sulfonates such as sodium lauryl sulfoacetate, etc.; alkyl sulfonates such as sodium dodecylbenzenesulfonate, etc.; sulfosuccinates; N-acylaminoacid salts such as sodium lauroylsarcosine, etc.; alkyl phosphates such as sodium laurylphosphate, etc.; alkyl ether phosphates or free acids thereof; bile acids or salts thereof such as sodium deoxycholate, etc.; and dialkylphosphatidinic acid salts such as sodium dipalmitoylphosphatidinate, etc. or free acids thereof. Preferably, the anionic compounds are sodium oleate and/or sodium laurylsulfate. These compounds may be used in combination of two or more.

The amount of the ionic compound to be added is not particularly limited so long as the compound is added in such an amount that can generally neutralize the charge of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative and increase the hydrophobic property of the prostanoic acid derivative.

The ionic compound is added preferably in the amount of 0.0001% to 50%, more preferably 0.001 to 10%, most preferably 0.01 to 5%, all inclusive, in terms of weight% by weight. The amount of the ionic compound to be added can be chosen to be the amount showing a desired sustained release pattern within the physiologically acceptable upper limit. The amount of the ionic compound added can be determined generally in terms of a molar ratio (charge ratio) based on the ionic prostanoic acid derivative and is preferably between 1 and 1,000, inclusive.

With respect to the pH of the sustained-release pharmaceutical composition of the present invention, its pH range is not particularly limited as far as pH is generally within a physiologically acceptable range but preferably it is in the range of 3 to 8. The pH can be suitably determined in view of stability of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative used in the invention.

The sustained-release pharmaceutical composition of the present invention can be prepared into a variety of pharmaceutical preparations in the form of, e.g., an aqueous solution, an oily preparation, a fatty emulsion, an emulsion, a gel, etc., and these preparations can be administered as intramuscular or subcutaneous injection or as injection to the organ, or as an implant or as a transmucosal preparation through nasal cavity, rectum, uterus, vagina, lung, etc. The composition of the present invention can also be administered in the form of oral preparations (e.g., solid preparations such as tablets, capsules, granules

or powders; liquid preparations such as syrup, emulsions or suspensions). Inter alia, injection is a preferred form of the preparations. Where the composition is prepared into an injection, the composition may contain, if necessary and desired, a known preservative, stabilizer, dispersing agent, pH controller or isotonic agent. Examples of the preservative are glycerin, propylene glycol, phenol, benzyl alcohol, etc. Examples of the stabilizer are dextran, gelatin, tocopherol acetate, alpha-thioglycerin, etc. Examples of the dispersing agent include polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monooleate (Tween 80), sorbitan sesquioleate (Span 30), polyoxyethylene (160) polyoxypropylene (30) glycol (Pluronic F68), polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oil 60, etc. Examples of the pH controller include hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, etc. Examples of the isotonic agent are glucose, D-sorbitol, D-mannitol, etc.

The sustained-release pharmaceutical composition of the present invention can be administered as an aqueous solution in its original composition since the composition itself exhibits the sustained release effect. In order to further enhance the sustained release effect, however, the composition may be formulated with additional components such as vegetable oil, e.g., soybean oil, sesame oil, camellia oil, castor oil, peanut oil, rape seed oil, etc.; middle fatty acid triglycerides; fatty acid esters such as ethyl oleate; polysiloxane derivatives, etc.; alternatively, water-soluble high molecular weight compounds such as hyaluronic acid or salts thereof (weight average molecular weight: ca. 80,000 to 2,000,000),

carboxymethylcellulose sodium (weight average molecular weight: ca. 20,000 to 400,000), hydroxypropylcellulose (viscosity in 2% aqueous solution: 3 to 4,000 cps), atherocollagen (weight average molecular weight: ca. 300,000), polyethylene glycol (weight average molecular weight: ca. 400 to 20,000), polyethylene oxide (weight average molecular weight: ca. 100,000 to 9,000,000), hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (viscosity in 1% aqueous solution: 4 to 100,000 cSt), methylcellulose (viscosity in 2% aqueous solution: 15 to 8,000 cSt), polyvinyl alcohol (viscosity: 2 to 100 cSt), polyvinylpyrrolidone (weight average molecular weight: 25,000 to 1,200,000), etc.

In the sustained-release pharmaceutical composition of the invention, it is preferred that the ionic prostanoic acid derivative be maintained in its dissolution state but may be in the form of a suspension, since there is no particular limitation to the appearance.

Disorders to which the sustained-release pharmaceutical composition of the invention are applicable are not particularly limited. Because of diverse therapeutic effects possessed by prostaglandin I derivatives, the sustained-release pharmaceutical composition of the invention can be used for improving peripheral circulation, as an antithrombotic agent, as an antihypertensive agent, for the treatment of heart failure, various complications accompanied by diabetes, peptic ulcer, skin ulcer, hyperlipemia and asthma, etc.

A dose of the sustained-release pharmaceutical composition

according to the present invention may be appropriately chosen, depending upon the amount of the composition or the pharmaceutically active substance contained in the composition, kind of diseases, age and body weight of the patient, frequency of administration, etc. In the case of using, e.g., BPS, the dose is in the range of 0.1 μg to 10 g, preferably 10 μg to 1 g.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 shows relationship between the ratio of the cationic compound added and pH in octanol/phosphate buffer partition coefficient (PC) of BPS.

Fig. 2 shows a release behavior of BPS in Test 5 to determine the release of the preparations obtained in Examples 11 through 13 and Comparative Example 1, which test was carried out in 10 ml of a phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.4) at 37℃.

Fig. 3 shows the concentration of medicaments in plasma plotted with passage of time in Test 6, when the preparations obtained in Example 17 and Comparative Example 4 were subcutaneously given to Wistar strain male rats (age of 8 weeks) at the back.

Best mode for carrying out the invention

The present invention will be described below in more detail, with reference to Tests, Examples and Comparative Examples.

Test 1

Effect of the ratio of benzalkonium chloride added and pH in the

octanol/phosphate buffer partition coefficient (PC) of BPS

Method:

BPS was dissolved in phosphate buffer solution having pH of 5 to 8 in a concentration of 240 μg/ml. Various cations were added to the mixtures to give equivalent charge to that of BPS or 5 times or 20 times more than that of BPS. The same volume of octanol as that of the aqueous phase was added to the mixture followed by shaking at 37℃ for an hour. After centrifugation, the concentration of the pharmaceutically active substance in the aqueous phase was measured to calculate the partition coefficient.

partition coefficient = concentration of the pharmaceutically active substance in the octanol phase/concentration of the pharmaceutically active substance in the aqueous phase

Results and discussion:

Fig.1 shows the relationship between the ratio of the cationic compound added and pH on octanol/phosphate buffer partition coefficient(PC) of BPS

As a result, PC increased at pH of 7 as the amount of benzalkonium chloride added increased. This is considered to be because BPS with its hydrophobic degree being increased by the formation of ion complex is distributed in the octanol phase so that the

equilibrium in the ion complex formation occured in the aqueous phase shifted toward the complex formation as the concentration of benzalkonium chloride became high. With respect to the pH, the partition coefficient of BPS, which is an acidic substance, decreased as the pH increased but the decrease in partition coefficient was suppressed by the addition of benzalkonium chloride. That is, the effect of benzalkonium chloride on the partition coefficient of BPS was greater in the high pH. When sodium chloride was added to make the solution isotonic, in which 20 times of equivalent molar ratio of benzalkonium chloride was included, the partition coefficient of BPS decreased. This is believed to be because the formation of ionic complex would be inhibited by the addition of sodium chloride. It was thus supported that the formation of ionic complex participated in the effect of enhancing the partition coefficient of BPS achieved by the addition of benzalkonium chloride.

Test 2

Evaluation of cationic compound by test in terms of partition coefficient

A variety of cations were examined with their effect if these cations would affect the partition coefficient of BPS in octanol/phosphate buffer solution (pH 7).

Method:

The pharmaceutically active substance was dissolved in an aqueous phase in a concentration of 240 μ g/ml. Various cations were

added to the solution to give equal charge to that of the pharmaceutically active substance or charges 20 times more than that of the substance. Then the same procedure as in Test 1 was applied to calculate the partition coefficient.

Results and discussion:

With regard to the effect of various cations on the partition coefficient of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative, representative results are shown in Table 1. An increase in the partition coefficient of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative was noted with alkylbenzylammonium salts such as triethylbenzylammonium chloride, etc., alkyltrimethylammonium salts such as lauryltrimetnylammonium chloride, etc.; phosphonium salts, lidocaine hydrochloride and meprylcaine hydrochloride. However, the partition coefficient of BPS showed no change with sorbitan sesquioleate (Span 30), which is a nonionic compound, and sodium lauryl sulfate, which is an anionic compound, for comparison, as compared to the partition coefficient when any ionic compound was not added (data not shown in Table 1); the results indicate that no effect was observed with the comparative compounds. Turning to the inorganic salts (magnesium chloride) or the compound having a small level of hydrophobicity (arginine hydrochloride), these compounds could form complexes but failed to enhance the hydrophobic property of BPS. Thus, no increase in the partition coefficient was noted. Furthermore, cationic

hydroxyethylcellulose (Kachi-sero H-60, produced by Kao Corp.) and protamine sulfate did not affect the partition coefficient; it is likely that these compounds contain hydrophilic groups represented by cationic groups so that even overall the highly hydrophilic nature of molecule is presented, the hydrophobic property of the pharmaceutically active substance would not be given enough if complexes are formed.

Table 1

Cation added	PC of BPS Equimolar amount	Excess x20
Triethylbenzylammonium chloride	-	-
Tributylbenzylammonium chloride	24.5	140
Octyldimethylbenzylammonium cloride	60.9	568
Lauryldimethylbenzylammonium chloride	71.2	1220
Myristyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride	64.5	1210
Stearyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride	62.3	1350
Benzethonium chloride	70.8	1180
Lauryltrimethylammonium chloride	83.5	985
Cetyltrimethylammonium chloride	91.6	935
Stearyltrimethylammonium chloride	83.4	995

Behenyltrimethylammonium chloride	59.5	-
Laurylpyridinium chloride	75.0	1200
Cetylpyridinium chloride	77.8	1070
Oleylamine acetate	30.4	473
Stearylamine acetate	32.6	158
Lidocaine hydrochloride	17.1	37.5
Meprylcaine hydrochloride	17.7	53.3
Tetrabutylphosphonium chloride	-	
Tricetyl (4-vinylbenzyl)phosphonium choride	-	
None	16.2	

That is, the results reveal that the compounds having opposite charges such as quaternary ammonium or phosphonium groups and highly hydrophobic substutients (e.g., hydrophobic groups of 6 or more carbon atoms) exhibit the effect of increasing the hydrophobic property of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative.

Example 1

Gel preparation:

After 0.024 part by weight (hereinafter merely referred to as "part") of BPS and 0.29 part of capryldimethylbenzylammonium chloride (which molar amount was adjusted to correspond to 0.36 part of benzalkonium chloride) were dissolved in 89.686 parts of water, 10 parts

of hydroxypropylcellulose (trademark: HPC-M) was added to the solution. The mixture was stirred and fully swollen to give a gel preparation.

Examples 2 through 9

Gel preparation:

Gel preparations having the same parts as in Example 1 were prepared in a manner similar to Example 1 except that capryldimethylbenzylammonium chloride of Example 1 was replaced by other cationic compounds shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Example	Cationic compound
2	Lauryldimethylbenzylammonium chloride
3	Myristyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride
4	Stearyldimethylbenzylammonium chloride
5	Lauryltrimethylammonium chloride
6	Cetyltrimethylammonium chloride
7	Stearyltrimethylammonium chloride
8	Behenyltrimethylammonium chloride
9	Benzethonium chloride

Comparative Examples 1 through 3

After 0.024 part of BPS was dissolved in water, 10 parts of HPC-M was added to the solution. The mixture was then fully swollen to give a gel preparation. Furthermore, arginine hydrochloride and

magnesium sulfate were added to the above preparation, respectively to give gel preparations. These preparations were used as comparative samples (Table 3).

Table 3

Comparative Reference	1	2	3
BPS	0.024	0.024	0.024
Arginine hydrochloride	-	0.1	-
Magnesium sulfate $7H_2O$	-	-	0.1
HPC-M	10	10	10
Water	89.976	89.876	89.876

Test 3

In vitro release test of gel preparation using various cations:

Each of the gel preparations obtained in Examples 1 to 9 and Comparative Examples 1 to 3 was evaluated, respectively, with regard to the release of the active substance in 10 ml of a phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.4) at 37℃.

According to the results, a delayed release was confirmed with the quaternary ammonium salt that was shown to enhance the hydrophobic property in the partition coefficient test (Test 2). On the other hand, no delayed release was noted with magnesium sulfate and arginine hydrochloride in the test, which are divalent inorganic metal salts similar to magnesium chloride demonstrated to hardly enhance the

partition coefficient. These results thus suggest that there is a correlation between the effect of enhancing the partition coefficient and the sustained release effect.

Example 10

Gel preparation:

After 0.024 part of BPS and 0.02 part of benzalkonium chloride were dissolved in 89.956 parts of water, 10 parts of HPC-M was added to the solution. The mixture was stirred and fully swollen to give a gel preparation.

Examples 11 through 17

Gel preparation:

Gel preparations having the amounts of BPS, benzalkonium chloride, HPC-M and water shown in Table 4 were prepared in a manner similar to Example 10

Comparative Example 4

A gel preparation for comparison was prepared in a manner similar to Example 17 except that no benzalkonium chloride was added.

Table 4

Example	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
BPS	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Benzalkonium chloride	0.1	0.2	0.36	0.002	0.1	0.2	0.36
HPC-M	10	10	10	5	5	5	5
Water	89.876	89.776	89.616	94.996	94.898	94.798	94.638

Test 4

Effect of the amount of counter ions added on release in gel preparation:

Release test was carried out in 10 ml of a phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.4) at 37℃, using the preparations obtained in Reference Examples 11 through 13 and Comparative Example 1.

The resultes of release test are shown in Fig.2. The results reveal that release of BPS from the preparation of the present invention was apparently controlled as compared to the Comparative Example and the release was delayed in correlation to the addition amount of benzalkonium chloride, which is a counter ion.

Test 5

Effect of the addition amount of benzalkonium chloride in rat in vivo:

The gel preparations obtained in Example 17 and Comparative Example 4 were subcutaneously given to Wistar strain male rats (age of 8 weeks) at the back, respectively. The concentration of the active substance in plasma was determined with passage of time.

The results of plasma concentration with passage of time are shown in Fig. 3. In the preparation of the present invention (added with benzalkonium chloride), the change in plasma concentration of the active substance showed a sustained release as compared to the comparative example. It is considered also from the foregoing results in vitro (Test 5) that the sustained release pattern can be controlled by changing the amount of benzalkonium chloride added.

Example 18

Liquid preparation:

In 99.638 parts of water, 0.002 part of BPS and 0.36 part of benzalkonium chloride were dissolved to give a liquid preparation.

Comparative Example 5

Liquid preparation:

A liquid preparation for comparison was prepared in a manner similar to Example 18 except that no benzalkonium chloride was added.

Example 19

Emulsion preparation:

After 0.002 part of BPS and 0.36 part of benzalkonium chloride were dissolved in 94.638 parts of water, 5 parts of soybean oil was added to the solution. An emulsion preparation was prepared using a microfluidizer (12,000 psi, 10 minutes at room temperature).

Examples 20 through 24

Emulsion preparation:

Emulsion preparations having the amounts of BPS, benzalkonium chloride, other additives (surfactant, oil, etc.) and water shown in Table 5 were prepared in a manner similar to Example 19.

Table 5

Example	20	21	22	23	24
BPS	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Benzalkonium chloride	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36

	Pluronic F68	1.8	-	-	1.8	-
	Tween 80	-	1.8	-	-	1.8
5	Soybean oil	10	10	-	-	-
	Sesame oil	-	-	5	10	10
	Concentrated glycerin	2.21	2.21	-	2.21	2.21
10	Water to make	100	100	100	100	100

Example 25

After 0.002 part of BPS and 0.36 part of benzalkonium chloride were dissolved in 2 parts of ethanol, soybean oil was added to the solution to make the volume 100 parts. Thus, an oily preparation was prepared.

Examples 26 through 30

Oily preparation:

After BPS and benzalkonium chloride were dissolved in alcohols (ethanol, benzyl alcohol, benzyl benzoate), oil (soybean oil, sesame oil) was added to the solution, all in the amount indicated in Table 6, to make the volume 100 parts. Thus, oily preparations were prepared.

Table 6

Example	26	27	28	29	30
BPS	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Benzalkonium chloride	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36
Ethanol	-	-	2	-	-

	Benzyl alcohol	2	5	-	2	5
	Benzyl benzoate	20	-	-	20	-
5	Soybean oil to make	100	100	-	-	-
	Sesame oil to make	-	-	100	100	100

10 Examples 31 through 34

Gel preparation:

After 0.002 part of BPS and 0.36 part of benzalkonium chloride were dissolved in water, a gel base (CMC-Na, sodium hyaluronate, atherocollagen, gelatin) was added to the solution. The mixture was 15 completely swollen to give gel preparations (Table 7).

Table 7

Example	31	32	33	34
BPS	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Benzalkonium chloride	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36
20 CMC-Na	3	-	-	-
Na hyaluronate	-	2.5	-	-
25 Atherocollagen	-	-	2	-
Gelatin	-	-	-	10
Water	96.638	97.138	97.638	89.638

30 Examples 35 through 38

Cream preparation:

After 0.002 part of BPS and 0.36 part of benzalkonium chloride were dissolved in water, a gel base (HPC-M, CMC-Na, sodium hyaluronate, atherocollagen) was added to the solution. The mixture was stirred to give cream preparations (Table 8).

Table 8

Example	35	36	37	38
BPS	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Benzalkonium chloride	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36
HPC-M	5	-	-	-
CMC-Na	-	3	-	-
Na hyaluronate	-	-	2.5	-
Atherocollagen	-	-	-	2
Water	74.638	76.638	77.138	77.638
Soybean oil	20	20	20	20

Test 6

In vivo effect in rat:

Each of the liquid preparations obtained in Example 18 and Comparative Example 5, the emulsion preparations of Examples 19 to 21, the oily preparations obtained in Examples 25 to 28 and the gel preparations or cream preparations obtained in Examples 31 to 38 was given to Wistar strain male rats (age of 8 weeks) at the back to determine the concentration of the medicament in plasma with passage

of time.

The results reveal that the sustained release effect was obtained with the respective preparations, by adding counter ions. To the contrary, no sustained release effect was noted with some of the Comparative Examples.

Example 39

Oily preparation:

After 0.024 part of BPS was dissolved in 2 parts of benzyl alcohol, 20 parts of benzyl benzoate as a solubilizing agent was further added to the solution. Thereafter 0.36 part of benzalkonium chloride was added to the solution to dissolve therein. Sesame oil was added to the solution to make the volume 100 parts and give an oily preparation.

Example 40

Gel preparation with low viscosity:

In 92.192 parts of water were dissolved 0.048 part of BPS, 5.04 parts of D-sorbitol, 40.2 parts of dextran and 0.72 part of benzalkonium chloride to give a low viscosity gel preparation.

Example 41

Emulsion preparation:

In 83.076 parts of water were dissolved 0.024 part of BPS, 2 parts of Tween 80, 4.54 parts of D-sorbitol and 0.36 part of benzalkonium chloride. After 10 parts of sesame oil was added to the solution, the mixture was emulsified with an emulsifier (DeBee 2000, 23,000 psi, 2

pass) to give an emulsion preparation.

Industrial Applicability

The present invention is useful as providing the sustained-release pharmaceutical composition which exhibits excellent sustained release effect of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative, irrespective of water solubility of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative. The sustained release according to the present invention is effected by means of a technique quite different from conventional techniques including those adopted to retard the release of ionic prostanoic acid derivative, to insolubilize a prostanoic acid derivative itself and to retard dissolution of such a prostanoic acid derivative through microencapsulation. The present invention is also useful in that the sustained release can be achieved by the invention to a fully satisfactory extent that was not obtained by known techniques.

The pharmaceutical composition of the present invention can attain excellent sustained release effect not only in the form of injection but also in all other pharmaceutical preparations including implants, transmucosal and oral preparations.

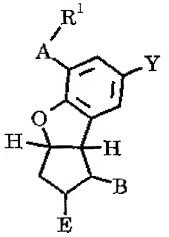
CLAIMS

1. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition for an ionic prostanoic acid derivative comprising an prostanoic acid derivative and an ionic compound having an opposite charge to that of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative and increasing hydrophobicity of the prostanoic acid derivative.

2. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the ionic compound having an opposite charge to the ionic prostanoic acid derivative and increasing the hydrophobic property of the prostanoic acid derivative contains a hydrophobic group in the molecule thereof.

3. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ionic prostanoic acid derivative is a prostaglandin I_2 derivative.

4. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the ionic prostaglandin I_2 derivative is a compound represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R^1 represents $COOR^2$ (wherein R^2 represents:

1) hydrogen or a pharmacologically acceptable cation,

2) -Z-Ar^1, wherein Z is a valence bond or a straight or branched alkylene shown by C_tH_{2t} wherein t is an integer of 1 to 6, and Ar^1 is 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl or 4-pyridyl;

3) -$C_tH_{2t}COOR^3$, wherein C_tH_{2t} has the same significance as defined above, and R^3 is hydrogen or a pharmacologically acceptable cation;

or,

4) -$C_tH_{2t}N(R^4)_2$, wherein C_tH_{2t} has the same significance as defined above, and R^4 is hydrogen, a straight alkyl having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a branched alkyl having 3 to 14 carbon atoms);

A represents:

1) -$(CH_2)_m$-, wherein m is an integer of 1 to 3;

2) -CH=CH-CH_2-;

3) -CH_2-CH=CH-;

4) $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$;

5) -CH=CH-;

6) $-O-CH_2-$; or,

7) -C≡C-;

Y represents hydrogen, an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, formyl, methoxy or nitro;

B represents $-X-C(R^5)(R^6)OR^7$ (wherein R^5 represents hydrogen or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; R^7 represents hydrogen, an acyl having 1 to 14 carbon atoms, an aroyl having 6 to 15 carbon atoms, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, 1-ethoxyethyl or t-butyl; X represents:

1) $-CH_2-CH_2-$;

2) -CH=CH-; or

3) -C≡C-;

R^6 represents:

1) a straight alkyl having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a branched alkyl having 3 to 14 carbon atoms;

2) $-Z-Ar^2$, wherein Z has the same significance as defined above and Ar^2 is phenyl, α-naphthyl, β-naphthyl or a phenyl substituted with at least one of chlorine, bromine, fluorine, iodine, trifluoromethyl, an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, nitro, cyano, methoxy, phenyl or phenoxy;

3) $-C_tH_{2t}OR^8$, wherein C_tH_{2t} has the same significance as

defined above, and R^8 is a straight alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a branched alkyl having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, phenyl, a phenyl substituted with at least one of chlorine, bromine, fluorine, iodine, trifluoromethyl, an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, nitro, cyano, methoxy, phenyl or phenoxy, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, or a cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl substituted with 1 to 4 straight alkyl group(s) having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

4) -Z-R^9, wherein Z has the same significance as defined above, and R^9 is hydrogen, a cycloalkyl having 3 to 12 carbon atoms or a substituted cycloalkyl having 3 to 12 carbon atom which is substituted with 1 to 3 alkyl groups having 1 to 5 carbon atoms;

5) -C_tH_{2t}-CH=C(R^{10})R^{11}, wherein C_tH_{2t} has the same significance as defined above, and R^{10} and R^{11} represent hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl; or

6) -C_uH_{2u}-C≡C-R^{12}, wherein u is an integer of 1 to 7, C_uH_{2u} is a straight or branched alkylene and R^{12} is a straight alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms);

E represents hydrogen or -OR^{13}, wherein R^{13} is hydrogen, an acyl having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an aroyl having 7 to 18 carbon atoms, a straight alkyl having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a branched alkyl having 3 to 14 carbon atoms; or a salt thereof.

5. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 through 4, wherein the ionic compound increases the

oil/water partition coefficient of the ionic prostanoic acid derivative.

6. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein the ionic compound is incorporated at least in an equimolar amount based on the ionic prostanoic acid derivative in terms of a charge ratio.

7. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein the ionic prostanoic acid derivative is anionic.

8. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7, wherein the ionic compound is a compound containing a group selected from an ammonium, pyridinium, phosphonium and sulfonium group in the molecule thereof, or a salt thereof.

9. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8, wherein the ionic compound contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of an alkyldimethylbenzylammonium salt, an alkyltrimethylammonium salt, an alkylpyridinium salt, an alkylamine salt and an alkylphosphonium salt.

10. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, wherein the ionic compound is benzalkonium chloride.

11. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 through 10, wherein the ionic prostanoic acid derivative is a synthetic ionic prostanoic acid derivative.

12. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to

any one of claims 1 through 11, wherein the prostaglandin I_2 derivative is (±)-(1R*,2R*,3aS*,8bS*)-2,3,3a,8b-tetrahydro-2-hydroxy-1-[(E)-(3S*)-3-hydroxy-4-methyl-1-octen-6-ynyl]-1H-cyclopenta[b]benzofuran-5-butanoic acid, or a salt thereof.

13. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein the ionic prostanoic acid derivative is cationic.

14. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the ionic compound is a compound containing a carboxyl, sulfate, sulfonate or phosphate group in the molecule thereof, or a salt thereof.

15. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14, wherein the ionic compound is sodium lauryl sulfate and/or sodium oleate.

16. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 13 through 15, wherein the ionic prostanoic acid derivative is a synthetic ionic prostanoic acid derivative.

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to sustained-release pharmaceutical compositions for ionic pharmaceutically active substances containing ionic compounds having opposite charges to those of ionic prostanoic acid derivatives and increasing hydrophobicity of the active substances. More specifically, the invention relates to sustained-release pharmaceutical compositions comprising the ionic prostanoic acid derivatives and the ionic compounds having opposite charges to those of the prostanoic acid derivatives and increasing hydrophobicity of these derivatives that contain hydrophobic groups in the molecule thereof.

The pharmaceutical composition of the invention can exhibit excellent sustained release effect of the ionic prostanoic acid derivatives, irrespective of water solubility possessed by the ionic prostanoic acid derivatives.

Fig.1

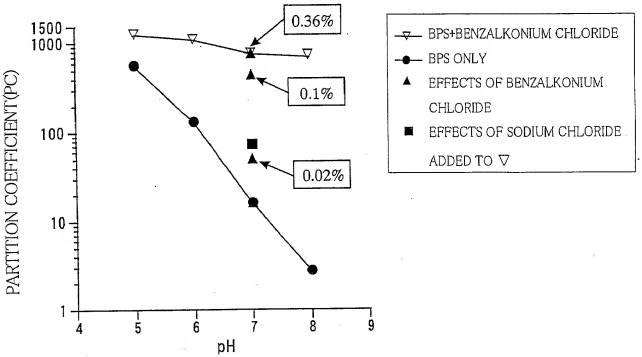


Fig.2

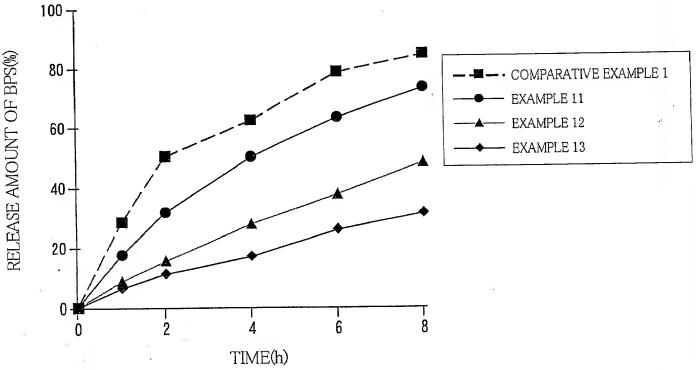
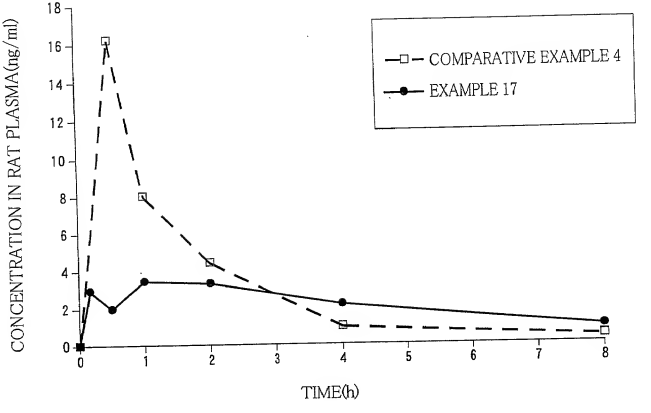


Fig.3



Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

TTC Ref.: 019941-000300US

特許出願宣言書及び委任状 (KWA Ref.: WA-0436US(PCT))

PCT/JP98/05915 (WO 99/33490)

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

私は、以下に記名された発明者として、ここに下記の通り宣言する：

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、郵便の宛先そして国籍は、私の氏名の後に記載された通りである。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明について、特許請求範囲に記載され、且つ特許が求められている発明主題に関して、私は、最初、最先且つ唯一の発明者である（唯一の氏名が記載されている場合）か、或いは最初、最先且つ共同発明者である（複数の氏名が記載されている場合）と信じている。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Sustained Release Pharmaceutical Compositions

上記発明の明細書はここに添付されているが、下記の欄がチェックされている場合は、この限りでない：

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ _____ の日に出願され、
この出願の米国出願番号またはＰＣＴ国際出願番号は、
_____ であり、且つ
_____ の日に補正された出願（該当する場合）

☒ was filed on December 25, 1998
as United States Application Number or
PCT International Application Number
PCT/JP98/05915 and was amended on
_____ (if applicable).

私は、上記の補正書によって補足された、特許請求範囲を含む上記明細書を検討し、且つ内容を理解していることをここに表明する。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above

私は、連邦規則法典第３７編規則1．５６に定義されている、特許性について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認める。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56

Japanese Language Declaration
（日本語宣言書）

PCT/JP98/05915(WO99/33490)

私は、ここに、以下に記載した外国での特許出願または発明者証の出願、或いは米国以外の少なくとも一国を指定している米国法典第３５編第３６５条(a)によるＰＣＴ国際出願について、同第１１９条(a)-(d)項又は第３６５条(b)項に基づいて優先権を主張するとともに、優先権を主張する本出願の出願日よりも前の出願日を有する外国での特許出願または発明者証の出願、或いはＰＣＴ国際出願については、いかなる出願も、下記の枠内をチェックすることにより示した。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s) 外国での先行出願 (Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)	(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願日／月／年)	Priority Not Claimed 優先権主張なし
JP 97360265	Japan	26 Dec. 1997	☐
			☐

私は、ここに、下記のいかなる米国仮特許出願についても、その米国法典第３５編１１９条(e)項の利益を主張する。

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)	(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

私は、ここに、下記のいかなる米国出願についても、その米国法典第３５編第１２０条に基づく利益を主張し、又米国を指定するいかなるＰＣＴ国際出願についても、その同第３６５条(c)に基づく利益を主張する。また、本出願の各特許請求の範囲の主題が、米国法典第３５編第１１２条第１段に規定された基様で、先行する米国出願又はＰＣＴ国際出願に開示されていない場合においては、その先行出願の出願日と本国内出願日またはＰＣＴ国際出願日との間の期間中に入手された情報で、連邦規則法典第３７編規則１．５６に定義された特許性に関わる重要な情報について開示義務があることを承認する。

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(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)	(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況：特許許可、係属中、放棄)
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)	(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況：特許許可、係属中、放棄)

私は、ここに表明された私自身の知識に係わる陳述が真実であり、且つ情報と信ずることに基づく陳述が、真実であると信じられることを宣言し、さらに、故意に虚偽の陳述などを行った場合は、米国法典第１８編第１００１条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、若しくはその両方により処罰され、またそのような故意による虚偽の陳述は、本出願またはそれに対して発行されるいかなる特許も、その有効性に問題が生ずることを理解した上で陳述が行われたことを、ここに宣言する。

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Japanese Language Declaration
（日本語宣言書）　PCT/JP98/05915(WO99/33490)

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(4) Ellen Lauver Weber (Reg. No. 32,762); Kevin L. Bastian (Reg. No. 34,774);
Jeffry S. Mann (Reg. No. 42,837)
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Ellen Lauver Weber
Reg. No. 32,762
(415) 576-0200

唯一または第一発明者氏名	Full name of sole or first inventor Noboru Yamashita　May 24, 2000
発明者の署名　日付	Inventor's signature　Date Noboru Yamashita
住所	Residence Shizuoka Ken, Japan
国籍	Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address c/o Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. 180, Ozumi, Yaizu-shi, Shizuoka, 425-0072 Japan
第二共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名	Full name of second joint inventor, if any Akira Takagi　May 24, 2000
第二共同発明者の署名　日付	Second inventor's signature　Date Akira Takagi
住所	Residence Shizuoka Ken, Japan
国籍	Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address c/o Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. 180, Ozumi, Yaizu-shi, Shizuoka, 425-0072 Japan

（第三以下の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること）

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

Japanese Language Declaration
（日本語宣言書）

PCT/JP98/05915(WO99/33490)

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直通電話連絡先：（氏名及び電話番号）	Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)

3-00

唯一または第一発明者氏名	Full name of third inventor Masataka Katsuma
発明者の署名　日付	May 24, 2000 Inventor's signature　Date Masataka Katsuma JPX
住所	Residence Shizuoka Ken, Japan
国籍	Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address c/o Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. 180 Ozumi, Yaizu-shi, Shizuoka, 425-0072 Japan
	4-00 Katsumi Saito
第二共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名	Full name of fourth inventor May 24, 2000
第二共同発明者の署名　日付	Inventor's signature　Date Katsumi Saito
住所	Residence Shizuoka Ken, Japan JPX
国籍	Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address c/o Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. 180 Ozumi, Yaizu-shi, Shizuoka, 425-0072 Japan

（第三以下の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること）

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

Japanese Language Declaration
（日本語宣言書） PCT/JP98/05915(WO99/33490)

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書類送付先

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Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)

5-00

唯一または第一発明者氏名	Full name of fifth inventor Yuuki Takaishi
発明者の署名　日付	Inventor's signature　Date Yuuki Takaishi　May 24, 2000
住所	Residence Shizuoka Ken, Japan
国籍	Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address c/o Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. 180 Ozumi, Yaizu-shi, Shizuoka, 425-0072 Japan
	6-00 Tatsuo Yasuda
第二共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名	Full name of sixth inventor
第二共同発明者の署名　日付	May 24, 2000 Inventor's signature　Date Tatsuo Yasuda
住所	Residence Shizuoka Ken, Japan
国籍	Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address c/o Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. 180 Ozumi, Yaizu-shi, Shizuoka, 425-0072 Japan

（第三以下の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること）

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

Japanese Language Declaration
（日本語宣言書）

PCT/JP98/05915(WO99/33490)

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POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number).

書類送付先

Send Correspondence to:

直通電話連絡先：（氏名及び電話番号）

Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)

7-00

唯一または第一発明者氏名		Full name of seventh inventor ~~Yutaka Takahashi~~ May 24, 2000
発明者の署名	日付	Inventor's signature Date Yutaka Takahashi
住所		Residence Shizuoka Ken, Japan JPY
国籍		Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先		Post Office Address c/o Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. 180 Ozumi, Yaizu-shi, Shizuoka, 425-0072 Japan
第二共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名		Mitsuo Mitomi Full name of eighth inventor May 24, 2000
第二共同発明者の署名	日付	Inventor's signature Date Mitsuo Mitomi
住所		Residence Shizuoka Ken, Japan JPX
国籍		Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先		Post Office Address c/o Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. 180 Ozumi, Yaizu-shi, Shizuoka, 425-0072 Japan

（第三以下の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること）

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

Japanese Language Declaration
（日本語宣言書）

PCT/JP98/05915(WO99/33490)

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書類送付先	Send Correspondence to:
直通電話連絡先：（氏名及び電話番号）	Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number) 9-00
唯一または第一発明者氏名	Full name of ninth inventor Michio Hara
発明者の署名 日付	Inventor's signature Date May 25, 2000 Michio Hara
住所	Residence Kanagawa-ken, Japan JPX
国籍	Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address 1714-73 Ouzenji, Asao-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken, 215-0013 Japan
第二共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名	Full name of
第二共同発明者の署名 日付	Second Inventor's signature Date
住所	Residence
国籍	Citizenship
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address
（第三以下の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること）	(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)